

C 1
--This application is a 35 USC 371 national phase application of PCT/F199/00192 filed on March 15, 1999 and claims priority to Finnish application No. 980571, filed on March 13, 1998.--

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8:

--**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Fig. 1 Growth Speed ELISA

C2
Graph representing bacterial density of strain IHS 59813 over time measured at 37°C.

Fig. 2 Growth Speed ELISA

Graph representing bacterial density of strain IHS 59813 and IHS 59929 over time measured at 43°C.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims:

SUB D 1
C 3
14. A method for detecting bacteria, comprising detecting bacteria from a cultivation medium within the time period of 3 to 10 hours from the onset of cultivation, by detecting antigens which are expressed soon after inoculation into the medium, and before an actual growth phase of the bacteria or in the beginning of the growth phase.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the bacterial antigens are detected immunologically using antibodies.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the bacterial antigens are detected in 3 to 4.5 hours after the onset of the cultivation.

17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the detected antigens are proteins.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the detected antigens are ~~fimbrial~~ proteins.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the fimbrial proteins are type 1 fimbrial proteins or comparable to them.

20. The method according to claim 14, wherein the microbial antigens are detected with antibodies, which have been produced against the synthetic peptide Ala Ser Phe Thr Ala Ile Gly Asp Thr Thr Ala Gln Val Pro Phe Ser Ile Val, or a derivative thereof.

21. The method according to claim 14, wherein the detected bacteria are enteric bacteria.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the detected bacteria are fecal coliforms.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the detected bacteria belong to the genus *Salmonella*.

C
3 24. The method according to claim 14, wherein the bacteria are incubated prior to the detection at their optimal growth temperature.

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein the bacteria are incubated prior to the detection at temperatures of about 37°C.

26. The method according to claim 14, wherein the bacteria are incubated prior to the detection at temperatures above 42°C.--
